

REMARKS

Status of case

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in this case. Claims 1, 7, and 9 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,661,877 B1 (Lee) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,505,237 B2 (Beyda).

The Office Action acknowledges that the Lee reference “fails to teach sending to said mail client, predetermined character strings for instructing said mail client to process data transmitted from the mail server to said mail client in accordance with an e-mail processing program, prior to or along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information when receiving predetermined character strings transmitted from predetermined character strings, storing, in accordance with an e-mail processing program by said mail client in a nonvolatile memory, an e-mail transmitted from said mail server.” See claim 1; see also claims 7 and 9. The Office Action further states, in the Response to Arguments, that the “Beyda reference is not used ‘to modify the Lee reference so that messages are stored in a non-unified manner.’”

Applicants amend claim 1 to recite “storing . . . the e-mail transmitted from the mail server, the nonvolatile memory being included in the mail client.” See also claims 7 and 9. In this way, the amendment underscores the fact that the messages are stored in a non-unified manner. This is directly contrary to the explicit teaching of the Lee reference. As detailed previously, Lee’s object is to unify (not diversify) storage of message.

Second generation attempts at integrating digital electronic messaging systems resolve the ad hoc approach in favor of a logically consolidated messaging application. Various messages types originating from heterogeneous computer telephony devices, including emails, facsimiles, and voicemails, are accessed through a virtually consolidated inbox. **However, the individual messages are still separately maintained in their own legacy message stores. This approach imposed an administrative burden on maintaining each individual system and increased the overall system complexity necessary to dynamically process messaging requests through each of the separate message stores.**

Col. 2, lines 30-41 (emphasis added). And, the Office Action specifically states that the Beyda reference is not used for teaching storing the e-mail in a non-unified manner. Therefore,

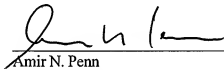
according to the reasoning in the Office Action, both the Lee and Beyda references do not teach storing the e-mail in a non-unified manner. Further, according to the reasoning in the Office Action, the claims (which recite storing the e-mail in a non-unified manner) are not rendered obvious by the combination of the Lee and Beyda references.

Finally, because the claims specifically recite the storage of the e-mail in nonvolatile memory in the mail client (a non-unified manner of storage), any combination of Lee (teaching unified storage) with another reference that allegedly teaches storage of the e-mail in nonvolatile memory of the mail client is improper. Simply put, the combination would be inconsistent with the teaching of Lee. Thus, Applicants respectfully contend that the claims as currently presented are patentable.

SUMMARY

If any questions arise or issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below in order to expedite disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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